

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

—
S.P. 59 - L.D. 120

An Act Regarding the Committee Structure of the State Workforce Board

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §2006, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 246, §4, is amended to read:

2-A. Membership. The board consists of the Governor, or the Governor's designee, and, at a minimum, the following members:

A. Representatives from business and industry, representatives from organized labor and representatives of other interests as determined by the Governor. These appointments are subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters and confirmation by the Legislature; and

B. The following ex officio members:

- (1) County commissioners designated by local boards appointed by the Governor;
- (2) The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;
- (3) The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;
- (4) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee; and
- (5) Other state, county or municipal officials as the Governor considers necessary appointed by the Governor.

The appointments of these members are not subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters or confirmation by the Legislature.

Appointments must be consistent with the representation requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The Governor shall ensure that the board has sufficient expertise to effectively carry out the duties and functions of the board. Members must represent diverse geographic areas of the State, including urban, rural and suburban areas.

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §2006, sub-§5-B, as amended by PL 2017, c. 110, §17, is further amended to read:

5-B. Commission on Disability and Employment. In addition to its other duties, the board, through its Commission on Disability and Employment, a ~~standing~~ committee created pursuant to subsection 7, ~~paragraph A, subparagraph (2)~~ and referred to in this subsection as "the standing committee," shall perform the duties of the former Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

A. The standing committee shall:

(1) Advise, consult and assist the executive and legislative branches of State Government on activities of State Government that affect the employment of ~~disabled~~ individuals with disabilities. The standing committee is solely advisory in nature. The standing committee may advise regarding state and federal plans and proposed budgetary, legislative or policy actions affecting ~~disabled~~ individuals with disabilities;

(2) Serve as an advocate on behalf of ~~disabled~~ citizens with disabilities promoting and assisting activities designed to further equal opportunity for ~~people~~ individuals with disabilities;

(3) Conduct educational programs considered necessary to promote public understanding of the employment-related needs and abilities of ~~disabled~~ citizens of this State with disabilities;

(4) Provide information, training and technical assistance to promote greater employer acceptance of ~~disabled~~ workers with disabilities;

(5) Advise and assist employers and other organizations interested in developing employment opportunities for ~~disabled people~~ individuals with disabilities; and

(6) Work with state and local government officials, organizations representing ~~persons~~ individuals with disabilities and the business community to inform the public of the benefits of making facilities and services accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

B. The standing committee shall administer in accordance with current fiscal and accounting regulations of the State, and in accordance with the philosophy, objectives and authority of this subsection, any funds appropriated for expenditure by the standing committee or any grants or gifts that may become available and are accepted and received by the standing committee.

C. The standing committee shall submit an annual report directly to the Governor and the Legislature not later than January 1st of each year concerning its work, recommendations and interest of the previous fiscal year and future plans. The standing committee shall make any interim reports it considers advisable.

D. The standing committee shall keep minutes of all meetings, including a list of people in attendance.

E. The standing committee may employ, subject to the Civil Service Law, the staff necessary to carry out its objectives. The standing committee may employ consultants and contract for projects it determines necessary. To the extent feasible and reasonable, the standing committee must be given the staff, facilities, equipment, supplies, information and other assistance required to carry out its activities.

F. The standing committee may make necessary rules, consistent with this subsection, for promoting its purposes.

Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §2006, sub-§7, as amended by PL 2017, c. 110, §19, is further amended to read:

7. ~~Committee structure~~ Committees. ~~The board has the following committee structure may establish committees as necessary to meet the strategic vision of the board and to address specific problems and issues that arise. A committee established pursuant to this subsection shall make recommendations to the full board.~~

~~A. The board shall create 6 standing committees. The standing committees shall make recommendations to the full board. The 6 standing committees are as follows:~~

- ~~(1) Younger workers;~~
- ~~(2) Commission on Disability and Employment;~~
- ~~(3) Women's employment issues;~~
- ~~(4) Older workers;~~
- ~~(5) Veterans employment; and~~
- ~~(6) The Program Partners Committee. Organizations with representation on the Program Partners Committee may include, but are not limited to, organizations that conduct programs or activities as specified in Section 121(b)(1)(B) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.~~

~~B. The board may create committees in addition to those in paragraph A to address specific problems and issues. These committees shall make recommendations to the full board.~~

~~D. The standing committees under paragraph A committee established pursuant to this subsection may receive and accept, from any source, allocations, appropriations, loans, grants and contributions of money or other things of value to be held, used or applied to carry out this section, subject to the conditions upon which the loans, grants and contributions may be made, including, but not limited to, appropriations, allocations, loans, grants or gifts from a private source, federal agency or governmental subdivision of the State or its agencies.~~